# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CIVIL AVIATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:872
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015
Introduction of New Air Routes
Rao Shri Rayapati Sambasiva

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether any efforts have been made during the last three years to introduce new air routes;
(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the methods being adopted by private airlines companies thereby resulting in earning profits;
(d) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and
(e) if not, the reasons therefor along with the steps taken by the Government to make the national carrier Air India a profitable venture?

## Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b): Air routes are decided by airlines and it is their commercial decision. Government has however, laid down the Route Dispersal Guidelines to achieve connectivity to different regions of the country. It is, however, up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability. As such, the airlines are free to operate anywhere in the country subject to the compliance of route dispersal guidelines issued by the Government. Scheduled domestic airlines are operating from 81 airports within the country as per winter schedule 2015 which includes metro/non metro cities, remote/ regional areas including religious historical/tourist places in the country. Scheduled domestic airlines have introduced new flights from CUDDAPAH, NANDED, AGRA, PANTNAGAR, DURGAPUR, CAR NICOBAR, and PONDICHERY.

(c) & (d): No such study has been carried out in this regard.

(e): The Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) in its meeting held on 12.04.2012, approved a Turnaround Plan (TAP)/ Financial Restructuring Plan (FRP) for operational and financial turnaround of Air India (AI) subject to achievement of certain laid down milestones by AI. As part of the TAP/FRP, AI has initiated, inter-alia, the following steps in order to make the national carrier Air India a profitable venture:-
(i) Rationalization of certain loss making routes
(ii) Induction of brand new aircraft on several domestic & international routes to increase passenger appeal
(iii) Phasing out & grounding of old fleet
(iv) Establishment of Integrated Operations Control Center and Hub Control Center in Delhi
(v) Freezing of employment in non-operational areas.
(vi) Operationalization of Subsidiary Companies such as Air India Air Transport Services Limited and Air India Engineering Services Limited and transfer of manpower and equipment and treating them as Independent Profit Centers and
(vii) Induction of the B787 aircraft on Medium Capacity Long Haul Routes.